

October 2015 Newsletter

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month

Honor the Silent Witnesses in your area during Domestic Violence Awareness month. Please attend one of the events happening in your community to honor those who have lost their lives in acts of domestic violence.



[Visit the Silent Witness website](#)

From the Board

October is National Domestic Violence Month in the USA and there are events planned to create awareness, education, prevention and healing in every state. [The National Network to End Domestic Violence](#) recommends that you "wear purple, the color of Domestic Violence Awareness Month -- during the month of October and use this as a way to tell others why ending domestic violence is important to you."

[The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#) lists a variety of events around the country in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In Minnesota where The Silent Witness Initiative was formed, [The Coalition for Battered Women](#) has launched a flag campaign - we raise the Live Free Without Violence Flag:

* The first week of October in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

*The release of the annual [Femicide Report](#) in late January

* Each time someone has died as a result of domestic violence in Minnesota.



Check with the Shelters in your state to become aware of events in your area and make plans to attend an event.

Silent Witness is dedicated to creating awareness and getting the word out that we need to talk about all forms of oppression, abuse and violence. Silence and secrecy perpetuate the problem instilling fear in all members of the family. When a relationship fails to provide mutual respect, mutual empathy, mutual support and mutual safety the relationship has become controlling. When one partner assumes power over the other and threatens you to maintain secrecy or be harmed, the relationship has become abusive and could potentially escalate to violence. Seek help, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224, advocates are available 24 hrs a day to help you, there are no fees, no judgment, just help.

What can you do if you're in an abusive relationship?

Tell someone who cares for you . . .

Find a domestic violence therapist, advocate and support group and attend regularly to begin to identify your strengths and what you can do to maintain safety and find healing among women who have been walking the same path as you have. Be wise, if there are children involve you're responsible to provide for their safety as well as your own. That's what shelters are for. Make a list of the shelters in your area and call them if you feel unsafe for any reason. You and your children need a safe place to stay free from all forms of abuse and violence. Children develop in an atmosphere of safety, trust, nurturing and understanding.

*Yours in peace,
Jacquie Skog*



Meet our new Board members

Shelly Anderson

Shelly Anderson is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Allegiance Financial Group, Inc. and has been with the company since 2004. Shelly has over 25 years' experience in accounting, finance and corporate tax. Shelly's background includes accounting, financial forecasting, budgeting, and portfolio acquisition analysis.

For more info, please click [HERE](#)



Natalie Niles Arguello

For almost 20 years, Natalie Niles Argüello has focused her career on supporting justice and equality for those in need. Informed by an early career as a news reporter for CBS in Houston followed by a number of years as Communications Director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, she has an approachable and easy communication style. She is a civil attorney practicing primarily in the areas of wills, estate planning, probate, civil litigation, and business development & transactions.

For more info, please click [HERE](#)



Mary Krueger

Mary Krueger has been the Director of the Bowling Green State University Women's Center since 1998. She has worked in higher education and the non-profit sector for her entire career, focusing on gender equity, sexual health and sexual/domestic violence. She has written a number of grants to fund victim advocacy and community education initiatives, and cofounded The Cocoon, a non-profit agency serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Wood County, Ohio.

For more info, please click [HERE](#)



Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter unveils new exhibit

Congratulations to Arkansas for the recent unveiling of their newest Silent Witness exhibit. They will host events through the month of October.

For more info click [HERE](#)

October events on Minnesota college campus

The Counseling, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's Studies Departments at Normandale Community College are hosting campus-wide events that will raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence and survivor resources. Events include an exhibition of The Silent Witness installation, a screening and discussion of the film, Private Violence, which is sponsored by Cornerstone in Bloomington, speakers and support resources for victims and survivors from Tubman shelter in Minneapolis, a restorative yoga session, a candle light vigil, and an interactive art project and display. Events are open to the community.

Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN 55431

Silent Witness in Canada

Remember My Story....Remember My Name Honouring the New Brunswick Silent Witnesses "The Power of the Shield"

When the Province of New Brunswick, Canada got involved with Silent Witness, we modelled our project after the State of Maine. Many thanks to Susan Fuller and Wayland Linscott for their inspiration and assistance. Our first witness (to represent the uncounted women) was named "Remember Me".



We then began to work with families to create silhouettes of their loved ones who had been killed in acts of domestic violence. In New Brunswick, each shield includes factual information, gathered from police reports, the coroner's office, criminal proceedings... and then a second paragraph, with personal information written by family members. This is the family's opportunity to include details they would like to have remembered about their loved one. They write things like "She was well known for her homemade pickles" (Shirley Tribe); or "She had a soft spot for kids and animals" (Melanie Davis); "loved music and dancing" (Dorothy Ann (Archer) Waycott); "Through her death, 5 organ transplant recipients survived" (Pamela Alexander). This gives the witnesses not only a voice, but a legacy.

Family members of the New Brunswick witnesses have contributed information for the shields, participated in construction and spoken at dedication ceremonies - each of which provides opportunities for healing....The Silent Witness Project has helped to bring these women's stories to life. Without it, we would not have known that Elda Armstrong was "an entrepreneur, scout leader and seamstress", who "learned to ski at age 50" or that Colette Cimon was "Atlantic Provinces' Athlete of the Year"; that Gail Foster "Loved getting lost in a book or planting things in her garden" or that Josephine Langteign "loved to pull pranks and make jokes". Although family and friends will miss Paula McKeighan's "zany sense of humour", Colette Boudreau's "voice of gold" and Michele Renault's "love of music" thanks to their families' contributions to their shields, we will all remember...

To read all of the shields of New Brunswick women, go to www.silentwitness.ca and click on The NB Women We Honour.

More Than a Few Good Men: A Lecture on American Manhood and Violence Against Women

Why is it that when most acts of violence are perpetrated by men, that we think about violence against women as a women's issue? Jackson Katz, author, educator and founder of the Mentor's In Violence Prevention (MVP) program, posed this question to more than 1,000 first year students and 200 professionals at two events hosted at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.



Dr. Katz challenged the participants to reexamine how we think about these issue and how men can be an active part of shifting the culture around these issues. He challenged men to stand up to violence and masculine stereotypes that perpetuate violence, not only against women but also against men and boys.

The event on Friday, August 28th was a three hour conference style workshop, sponsored by the Silent

Witness Initiative, in conjunction with RI Attorney General's office, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial fund and a variety of RWU campus offices. The interactive workshop included a presentation by Dr. Katz, as well as a panel of compelling speakers, including:

- * Rhode Island Attorney General, Peter Kilmartin
- * Lucy Rios, Director of Prevention and Communications at the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- * Ann Burke, President of the Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial Fund
- * Beth Devonshire, Higher Education Consultant and Title IX Specialist

The panel focused on a variety of best practices in violence prevention and response, including providing immediate access to assistance for individuals reporting crimes; partnerships with campus and community organizations; education for all faculty, staff and students; and transformative conversations, specifically those that focus on gender.

Don't know where to start? Here are some terrific resources right at your fingertips:

- * The Silent Witness Initiative: <https://www.silentwitness.net/%20>
- * The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.ncadv.org/%20>
- * The Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial Fund: <http://labmf.org/%20>
- * Green Dot Bystander Intervention: <http://livethegreendot.com/%20>
- * Step UP! Bystander Intervention: <http://stepupprogram.org/%20>
- * Men Can Stop Rape: <http://www.mencanstoprape.org/Theories-that-Shape-Our-Work/bystander-intervention.html%20>
- * MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) National: <http://www.mvpngnational.org/%20>
- * Walk A Mile In Her Shoes: <http://walkamileinhershoes.org/>
- * Jackson Katz "Ten Things Men Can Do To Prevent Gender Violence": <http://jacksonkatz.com/wmcd.html%20>
- * Equalogy Inc. (interactive theater): <http://equalogyinc.org/>
- * VDAY: <http://www.vday.org/> * It's On Us: <http://itsonus.org/>
- * US Dept. of Ed - Title IX / Sex Discrimination: http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix_dis.html

Clearly this is not a comprehensive list, but it is a great launching pad for information, resources, program ideas and practical tools to help make your community a safer place.

If you have great programs or resources that you would like to share, please send them to jstanley@rwu.edu and we will be sure to feature them in future newsletters.

How can you help?

The work of Silent Witness is more important now than ever. Click on the button below to make a gift now and help us continue our efforts.

[DONATE NOW](#)